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EXCISE

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FROM: Rome

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 3996, March 13, 7 p.m.

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In view recent flurry press reports on imminent uprising in Albania and of despatch substantial Yugoslav reinforcements to border, Embassy today solicited Foreign Office views at working level on general Albanian situation.

Most recent information from Italian mission in Tirana (March 7) indicates continued general unrest which mission attributes to popular reaction to recent killings, arrests, and trials assorted spies and diversionists allegedly working for British and Yugoslavs. On day following Stalin's death, additional security measures taken by Albanian authorities, including strengthened street patrols in Tirana, emplacement additional AA batteries in environs, and despatch reinforcements of unspecified strength to Greek and Yugoslav borders.

Italians feel situation bears close watching, but consider as unwarranted exaggeration report that Albania on verge of revolt.

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